

St. Paul's Catholic Church Rectory  
Crawford Street  
Vicksburg  
Warren County  
Mississippi

HABS No. MS-189

HABS  
MISS,  
75-VICK,  
26-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH RECTORY

HABS No. MS-189

Location: Crawford Street, Vicksburg, Warren County, Mississippi

Present Occupant: Demolished, 1972

Significance: St. Paul's Rectory was a significant example of Gothic Revival architecture which was partially prefabricated by the M. H. Cook Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. Its first occupant, Father Francis Xavier LeRay, was a chaplain in the Confederate Army and later the archbishop of New Orleans until his death in 1887.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: c. 1866
2. Architect: Father Jean Baptist Mouton
3. Original and subsequent owners: St. Paul's Catholic Church purchased the property on August 8, 1857 (Deed Book AA-228) from A. Geuella for one dollar and other valuable considerations. It was described as "... part of lot 206 in square no. 31... commencing at a distance of one hundred and forty seven feet from Washington Street on Crawford Street running east along Crawford Street to a point eight feet from Walnut Street, thence north one hundred and forty seven feet, then west to a junction with the lot formerly owned by William C. Smede, thence south one hundred and forty seven feet to the place of beginning."
4. Supplier: The Rectory was partially prefabricated by the M. H. Cooke Company of Cincinnati, Ohio.
5. Original plan: A central hallway was flanked by rooms on each side of the two residential floors. An office/bedroom suite occupied the east side of the second floor and a second office and dining room on the west side. Bedrooms were located on the third floor.

B. Historical Context:

Father Francis Xavier LeRay, the first occupant, was pastor there from 1859-1877. Father LeRay was a chaplain in the Confederate Army, bishop of Natchitoches, Louisiana, and Archbishop of New Orleans until his death in 1887. Among the visitors who have stayed in the Rectory was Father Abram Ryan, poet of the Confederacy and the author of "Furl the Banner."

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: An example of Gothic Revival architecture.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The rectangular building measured 44' by 58'. There were two stories over a full basement. The entrance facade numbered five bays.
2. Foundations: Brick
3. Walls: Stuccoed in imitation of ashlar masonry
4. Structural system: Load bearing masonry walls
5. Stoop and gallery: The entrance stoop was designed with octagonal columns supporting a hooded, ogee arch opening framed by pilasters. There was a double rear gallery.
6. Openings: The entrance door was a single leaf, four paneled door, topped by an ogee-shaped transom. The windows contained two-over-two glazing topped by heavy hood molds.
7. Roof: Hipped. Beneath the overhanging eaves were paneled modillions uniformly spaced against the cornice. Iron cresting accented the top of the hipped roof.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The floors were double pile with the stairway in center passage.
2. Stairways: The newel-posts of the main stair were octagonal. There were two balusters per step, and each step had scrolled step-ends.
3. Flooring: Wood
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster
5. Doorways and doors: The four paneled doors stood under paneled soffits with mitered architraves.
6. Decorative features: Notable plaster chandelier medallions.

- D. Site: The Rectory was placed directly upon the sidewalk facing Crawford Street.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Jackson, Mississippi.  
Statewide Survey File: Church, St Paul's Catholic.

Project coordinated by Mississippi  
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